



Brookfield Lions Community Garden
Gurski Homestead Property, Brookfield, CT



2015 Rules and Guidelines

I. Introduction

The Community Garden is supported and managed by volunteer members of the Brookfield Lions Club in conjunction with the Town of Brookfield. It is located on the Gurski property along Route 133 in Brookfield, approximately one-quarter mile south of Route 25 (Whisconier Road). The Garden has two well-fed water ports, perimeter fencing, and locked access gates. Participation is limited to Brookfield residents age 16 or older. The non-refundable registration fee covers the cost of purchasing items for the maintenance and upkeep of the property, shed, pathways and fencing as well as basic gardening supplies.

Each year the Brookfield Lions Club appoints one or more Garden Captains to oversee the activities required for the successful administration of the program. The Captain(s) nominates Garden Marshalls to assist with the day-to-day operation of the garden and ensure compliance to these Rules and Guidelines so that participants may have a safe, enjoyable and abundant gardening experience. All communications to the Garden Committee should be courteous in nature and emailed to **BrkfldLionsGarden@gmail.com**.

Every gardener is required to comply with these Rules and Guidelines to remain in good standing.

II. Program Timeline

Last day for renewal registration:	April 1
Last day for new registration:	April 15
Community Garden Preparation Event:	Mid-April
Plot Abandonment Assessment:	June 1
Final Garden Clean-up Event:	Late October

Registration applications and fees must be received by the dates indicated above. Plantings may commence only after participation approvals with plot assignments are received from the Garden Captain(s). Registered gardeners who subsequently decide not to participate in the program must notify the Garden Committee as soon as possible. Gardeners are expected to participate in the Garden Preparation which involves repairing or upgrading common areas and pathways. Garden plots that remain unsown by the Plot Abandonment Assessment date will be reassigned to wait-list registrants. Individual plot clean-up must be completed on or before the Final Garden Cleanup. Gardeners are expected to participate in the Fall Clean-up which involves repairing damaged fencing, weeding common areas, and clearing abandoned gardens. **Gardeners who do not participate in either the Spring Preparation or Fall Cleanup events may be denied future participation in the program.**

III. Plot Assignments

There are currently 106 garden beds of various sizes ranging from approximately 8' x 16' to 16' x 16'. All are assigned by the Garden Captain(s). Plot edges are marked by stakes. Additional boundaries may be erected by registered gardeners provided that they do not encroach upon the pathways. Raised beds must be approved by the Garden Captain(s) in advance of construction. Returning gardeners who have been

approved for continued participation will be assigned the same plot. Plot changes may be requested during the registration process but are not guaranteed. **Registered gardeners may not transfer their plots to other individuals.**

IV. Garden Rules

Plants with vines (peas, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins etc) must be staked, trellised, or otherwise confined to prevent them from growing beyond the plot boundary. Bush varieties of these vegetables are recommended. Crops must be legal and may not be used for commercial purposes. Plants that shade other gardens or grow into pathways are not permitted. Vegetation outside the garden perimeter, such as trees and shrubs, may not be disturbed in any way.

Compost and crushed stones are provided by the Lions Club for gardener use. A separate pile is designated each season for weeds and dead plants. Gardeners must adhere to the following restrictions for the weed pile:

- **No diseased or insect-infected plants.** These must be bagged and taken off the property.
- **No wood, plastic, or weed control material.** This includes pots, frames, and fencing. It is the gardener's responsibility to remove these items from the property.
- **No stones.** Stones may be placed along the exterior perimeter of the fence.

There are no waste disposal services at the property. Items deemed to be "trash" must be removed from the premises by the gardener upon exiting.

This is an organic garden. Do not use colored mulch or pressure-treated wood that contains arsenic or other chemical. The use of ROUND-UP™ or other inorganic chemicals for controlling weeds and pests is strictly forbidden. Please contact the Garden Captain(s) for questions on what is approved for use or to report violations.

V. Gardener Responsibilities

Participate in the spring Garden Preparation Event. Turn over soil and sow crops on or before the Plot Abandonment Assessment date. Use mulch or weed control materials. Crop or remove mature plantings that encroach on pathways or block sunlight to neighboring plots. Repair or replace deteriorating stakes or plot boundaries. WEED THE GARDEN AND ADJACENT PATHS REGULARLY. Clean community garden tools and return them to the tool shed prior to leaving the property. Clean, cover-crop or mulch the plot on or before the Fall Cleanup Event.

Be courteous to other gardeners. Do not cause damage to, traverse through, or harvest crops from other gardens. Shut off water systems completely after each use. ENSURE THE TOOL SHED AND ALL GATES ARE LOCKED PRIOR TO LEAVING THE PROPERTY. (The Lions Club is not responsible for personal items left in the garden or shed. Notify the Garden Captain(s) prior to donating tools so an accurate inventory of supplies can be maintained.)

REMIND OTHER GARDENERS AND VISITORS THAT PETS ARE NEVER PERMITTED INSIDE THE GARDEN OR ALLOWED TO WANDER ALONG THE FENCING, COMPOST PILES, OR LEFT UNATTENDED IN PARKING AREAS.

Inform the Garden Captain(s) immediately of any problems impacting the integrity of the garden property or equipment. Provide updated and accurate personal contact information (e-mail, phone). Notify the Captain(s) when an extended absence may result in harvest waste. (See section VII - Harvest Donations).

VI. Garden Captain Responsibilities

Serve as the point of contact for all program issues or concerns. Process registrations and communicate plot assignments in a timely manner. Maintain adequate garden supplies, such as tools and mulch, and ensure the proper functioning of the water system. Organize the spring Garden Preparation and fall Clean-up events. Facilitate timely resolution of issues that affect the general integrity of the garden property. Oversee enhancements or changes to the program in coordination with the Town of Brookfield.

Ensure gardeners' compliance to these Rules and Guidelines. Attempt to amicably resolve issues of non-compliance within 7 days. Garden Captain rights include:

- Removing registered gardeners who violate the terms of these Rules and Guidelines
- Reassigning and/or clearing abandoned gardens
- Adjusting plot boundaries prior to growing season (staking, pathways)
- Cropping or removing plantings that block sunlight to other gardens or grow beyond plot boundaries
- Harvesting vegetables from abandoned gardens (subject to gardener notification)

VII. Harvest Donations

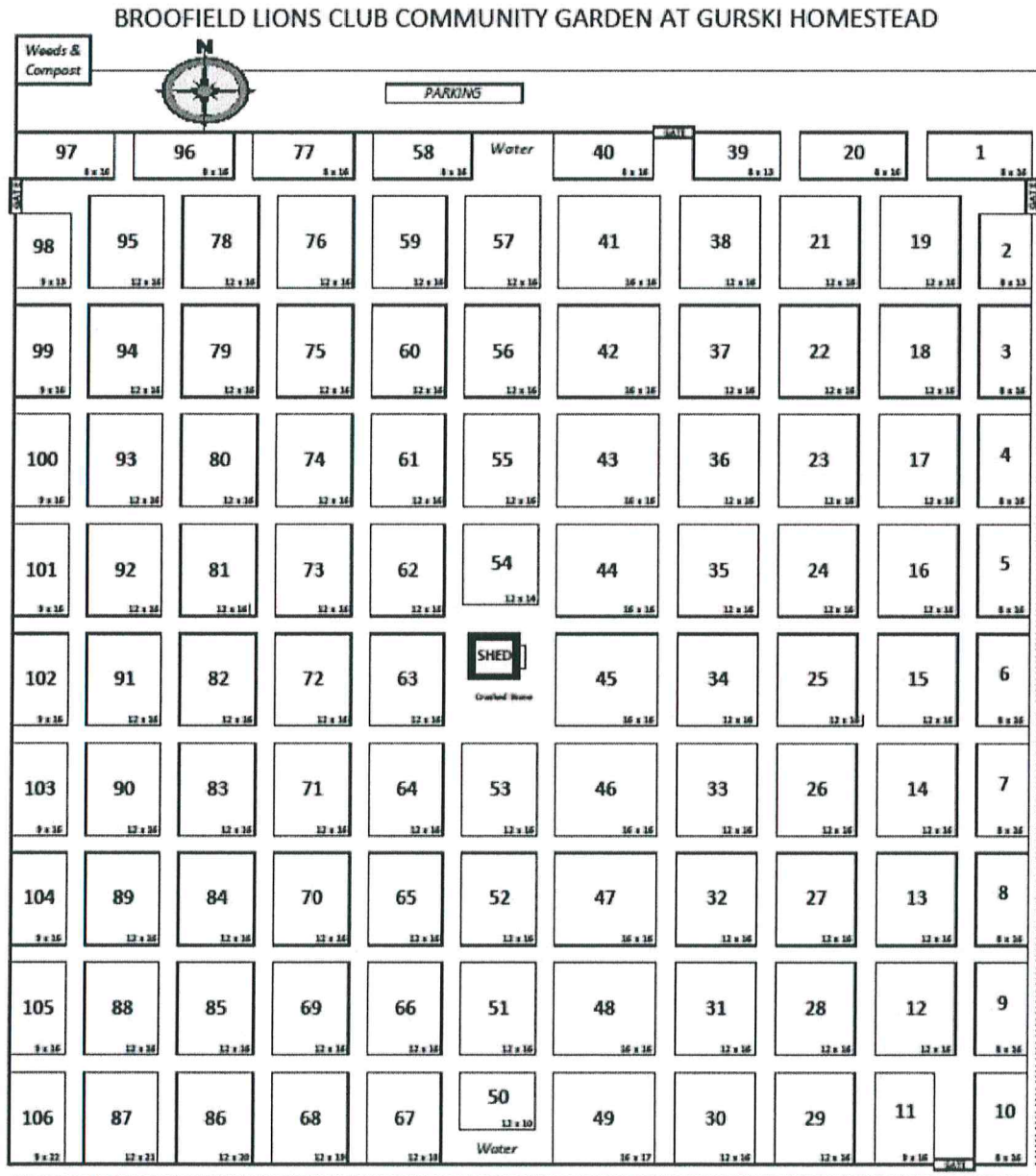
Gardeners who wish to donate harvested crops may place them in bags at the North gate or take them to the Brookfield Pantry. Alternatively, they may design "Donation" stakes to place at the end of a row of ripened crops in their garden. The stake indicates to others that harvesting of crops in that row is permitted. Removing the stake rescinds that permission.

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR AGREEMENT TO THESE TERMS BY SIGNING AND RETURNING THE ATTACHED PARTICIPATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT ALONG WITH THE NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE PAYABLE TO THE *BROOKFIELD LIONS CLUB* TO:

Town of Brookfield
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 5106
Brookfield, CT 06804
Attn: Community Garden

This is a Community Program supported and managed by volunteer members of the Brookfield Lions Club. Your courtesy and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Non-Refundable Registration Fees: \$20 Small / \$30 Large



MAIL THIS COMPLETED PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE (payable to the Brookfield Lions Club) TO: Town of Brookfield, Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 5106, Brookfield, CT 06804, Attn: Community Garden.

**BROOKFIELD LIONS COMMUNITY GARDEN / GURSKI HOMESTEAD PROPERTY
PARTICIPATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN ACTIVITIES**

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the Brookfield Town Community Garden activities, I the undersigned _____ have read, understood, and agreed to the above rules and guidelines for community gardening with the Brookfield Lions Community Garden and release Brookfield Lions Club Inc. and the Town of Brookfield, Brookfield, CT. its officials, agents and employees from any claim for injuries and/or damages arising from or in any way relating to my participation in the program, plot and tool use.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Brookfield Lions Club Inc. and the Town of Brookfield, its officials, agents, and employees, for all losses, damages, attorney's fees, costs or expenses resulting from any injuries or damages which I may suffer during my participation in the Community Garden activities and from any and all damages, losses or injuries I may cause another during the course of the activities.

I understand my participation is entirely voluntary and will involve moderate physical activity. I agree to participate at my own risk and acknowledge that reasonable physical capacity is required. I also understand that there are risks of accident from participation that may result in injury. To my knowledge, I am not affected by a physical condition or disability that would prohibit me from safely performing in any aspect of the activity. I also understand that if I am injured during my participation in the community garden activities that I will not be eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Clearly Print Name: _____

Street

City/State/Zip

Primary Phone

Primary Email

Emergency Contact Name

Emergency Contact Phone

X _____
Signature of Participant

Date

Garden Plot # (If renewal) _____

Fee Enclosed \$ _____

PARENTAL ENDORSEMENT (MUST BE COMPLETED IF THE PARTICIPANT IS LESS THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE)

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE garden rules and guidelines and release and indemnity agreement and agree to its provisions as they apply to my son/daughter and also agree to be fully bound by them. I certify that my son/daughter is physically capable and medically able to participate in these activities. I further assume full responsibility for my son/daughter relating to any and all activities of the activity and/or covered by this Release and Indemnity Agreement.

X _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Name

Child's Age